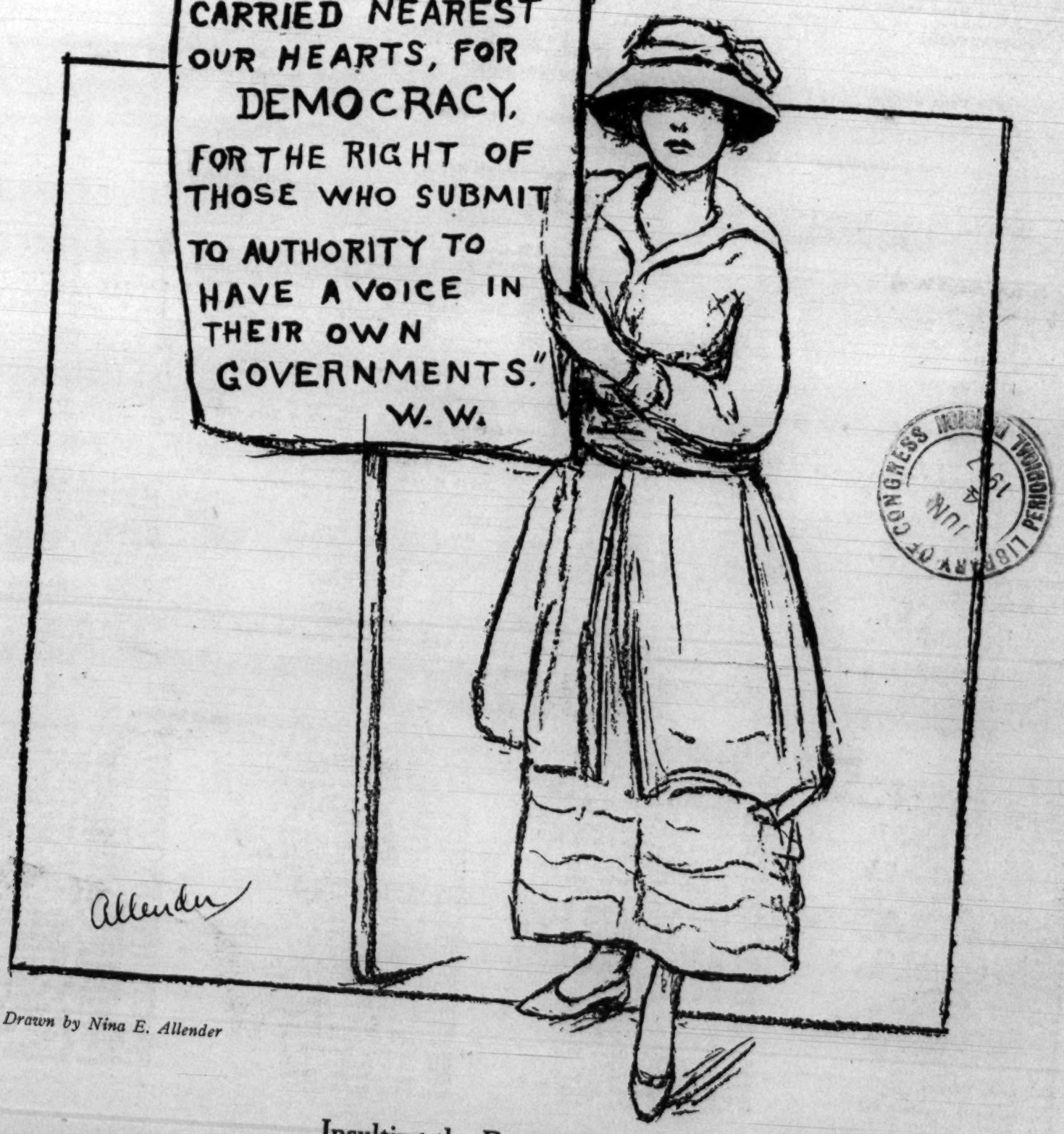
The Suffragist

VOL. V—NO. 71 SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1917

FIVE CENTS

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY


"WE SHALL FIGHT FOR THE THINGS WE HAVE ALWAYS CARRIED NEAREST OUR HEARTS, FOR DEMOCRACY, FOR THE RIGHT OF THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY TO HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS."
W. W.
Allender

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Drawn by Nina E. Allender

Insulting the President?

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ENTRANCE FEE: Twenty-five cents. There are no dues.

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Notes of the Week

Representative Rankin's First Speech

MISS JEANNETTE RANKIN, Representative from Montana, made her first speech in the House on May 27, in connection with the Lever food survey bill. This bill, the first of the food control measures supported by the administration, appropriates $14,770,000 for an immediate inventory of food resources and for measures to stimulate production. Miss Rankin's amendment required "that the secretary of agriculture shall so far as is practicable engage the services of women for the work herein provided for." The bill with the amendment passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate this week.

The agricultural department expects to present the first complete survey of resources within three weeks after the President signs the bill, to be followed by monthly reports and a later summary. For this the department will use 17,000 employees and 150,000 voluntary crop reporters. Through Miss Rankin's amendment women will be used in this work.

Miss Rankin said in part:

"Women officials, with their understanding and sympathy for home problems, will inspire a confidence in the home woman, and will encourage her to cooperate with the Government in this emergency.

"Women as housekeepers must learn to think of food in carload lots, in transit, in storage, in the board of trade, and in the national markets as as well as in the small portions on the family table.

"By using women officials to aid in this work we will concentrate the attention of all women on the larger bearings of the food problems. It will bring the home woman into closer cooperation with the Government.

"It would be to the advantage of the Government to utilize the services of trained women in the place where they would count the most for the country during this present crisis and also in the future.

"Food conservation on a national scale is but the natural outgrowth of woman's traditional work. Women in the past have been concerned with the immediate preparation of food from one meal to another. They must now consider the food supply for the year. They must be individually concerned with the food supply for the whole country. And now, as we face this international problem of feeding the people, the responsibility is placed on all of us.

"Women must take an intelligent and responsible share in the world's work if we are to see that all the people are fed all the time."

Growing Democracy

MR. BALFOUR in an address to the Canadian Parliament on May 28, declaring the countries fighting Germany to be aligned for the liberties of the world, said:

"I know the democracies of the Old World and the New will come out of this struggle, not merely triumphant in the military sense, but strengthened in their own inner life, more firmly convinced that the path of freedom is the only path to national greatness."

To suffragists the inner life of the United States seems to need the strengthening of national suffrage before this country can be called a real democracy or can even be ranked with most of the other countries allied against Germany—England and Russia now enfranchising women, France proposing municipal suffrage, Canada largely free, New Zealand and Australia with universal suffrage. Mr. Balfour holds up to everyone of the allies an ideal of inner progress at this time which the United States will do well to act on.

Pennsylvania Still Defeating Suffrage

THE Pennsylvania legislature this week tabled the presidential suffrage bill by a vote of 77 to 75. The bill was presented with the endorsement of the governor of the state and a petition from thousands of citizens, but it was hastily disposed of in the lower house just after appropriations for fourteen million dollars went through with hardly a disenting vote.

When the referendum for a suffrage amendment in Pennsylvania was defeated in April, by the liquor interests it was openly stated on the floor of the house, the state equal franchise society passed strong resolutions against "costly failures due to attempts to play the politicians of all parties," and for a new line of fight.

"Whereas, the action of the legislature at Harrisburg on April 17, in refusing to pass the suffrage resolution has turned the educational campaign for equal suffrage into a political campaign; therefore,

"Be it resolved, that the Equal Franchise Society hereby adopts a new policy and declares its object to be the defeat at the polls of the representatives of the forces that have combined to prevent the enfranchisement of women of this state.

"And that, in addition to promoting the passage of the federal amendment for woman suffrage, we urge the immediate adoption of the presidential suffrage measure now pending in the state legislature as an effective instrument in furthering the political policy now adopted."

The next step for the suffragists of Pennsylvania to take is to give up altogether the costly struggle against the entrenched interests of that state and put all their energies into the federal fight where success is certain.

British Women in War Work

WAR has added more than a million English women of all classes to industry, a London correspondent writes the New York *Tribune*. This means that there are three and four times as many women working in some industries now as before the war; in government establishments there are sixty times as many.

"What women had done to release men for military service up to the beginning of the third year of the war the following figures show. From banking and finance they had released 37,000, from the work of transport they had released 41,000, from the government employ they had released 117,000. In the naval dockyards alone there are 7,000 women working, where before the war there were fewer than 500, and the women in the service of the army are numbered by tens of thousands.

"But no figures can give any idea of the variety or the responsibility of the work that women have undertaken nor of that change which war has made in their lives. It is not only that women have replaced men in occupations with which before they were familiar, nor that they have taken their places at work which before the war they had never attempted, but that they have shared and are sharing with men the work of organizing the nation for war.

"At the Board of Agriculture, at the Board of Trade, at the Ministry of Munitions, at the office of the National Service, the work of women is organized and controlled by women. There are women at the head of the nursing services of the navy and the army and the Red Cross, and there are British women in charge of hospitals in all the countries of the Allies."

Exactly the same flow of women into men's work will take place in this country if the war continues for even a year or more longer. It is certain that the economic and political changes that have followed this substitution in England will follow here as well, in especial the irresistible demand for woman suffrage, and the government will be forced to follow the demand if it is not intelligent enough to lead.

French Women Strike

THE strike of women workers in France is growing larger daily, extending from the clothing trade through all the occupations. This week four thousand bank clerks met in Paris at the Labor Exchange to plan a campaign for higher wages. Most of these women get three francs a day. This section of the strike is expected to be soon settled since the feeling is general that these workers deserve advances in pay. This is said to be true of most of the striking trades as well, and some settlements have already been made, while others are held up only till union delegates can confer with representatives of the employers.

Women in the warring countries have proved so necessary to the mechanism of industry and war that any strongly made demand of theirs must be met. Only the United States, not yet beyond the clamour of a panic patriotism, thinks war an excuse for postponing just demands instead of the strongest reason for settling them.

"Only Holding a Flag"

Florida Protests from the Picket Line

TO think that American women should have to picket Congress and the White House to call the attention of the government of the United States to the fact that this is not a democracy!" This was almost the first exclamation made by Miss Helen Hunt of Jacksonville, Florida, secretary of the Florida branch of the Woman's Party, when she came to the Capital for two weeks to help push the federal amendment through the emergency Congress.

Miss Hunt says she has been a suffragist all her life. For the last few years she has been a busy young newspaper woman in Jacksonville. That she chose to spend her whole vacation in the Capital, lobbying the congressmen from her own state and other Southern states where she has a wide acquaintance, or standing on the picket line for suffrage, demonstrates that she is typical of the new South and eager to put "suffrage first."

The favorite remark of Southern congressmen is "My women constituents do not want suffrage; when they demand it I will stand back of the amendment." For this reason the advent of this charming young Southern girl in the long gray corridors of the House and Senate Office Buildings created more of an impression than that of any lobbyist seen in many months. Miss Hunt's Georgia grandfather, S. F. Gove, and her great-grandfather, Frederick Hunter, were both representatives to Congress, and a number of the Southern representation have known her all her life. To have this young federal suffrage enthusiast declare that in Jacksonville there are three Red Cross nurses for every soldier and that she prefers to serve on the picket line where it takes more courage to remind a careless country of democracy for women, made a profound impression on Georgia and Florida representatives. They have promised to reconsider their suffrage stand.

Miss Hunt is a young woman of winning appearance and vivid personality, quick of wit but unagressive. The Southern representatives who have met their young constituent on the picket line have been, like the President, forced to a reconsideration of the federal suffrage measure.

Miss Helen Hunt

"They all admit that it is on the horizon," said Miss Hunt, "and I don't believe it seems quite the menace to them that it did before one of their very own constituents stood there silent with a banner.

But picketing was an unforgettable experience to Miss Hunt herself.

AFTER her first morning on the picket line she came back to the Woman's Party headquarters with a thoughtful expression. "It seems preposterous," she said when asked about the suffrage picket. "Not the fact that we are picketing, but the fact that we have to picket in this 'land of the free and home of the brave.' To a woman of the South the 'chivalry' argument is brought up so often in regard to suffrage. To think that our Southern men are not dealing out justice, much less chivalry, and that they hate to be reminded of it! That is what struck me on the picket line.

"One of the Georgia representatives, a friend of mine whose family I have always known, told me he thought pickets 'bold and unwomanly.' I reminded him that his sister was standing on a street corner in his home town soliciting Red Cross funds, and I asked him if it was more bold to stand silent with a flag to remind the careless of injustice than it was to beg for dimes for the Red Cross. He said it was 'different.'

"Women are being called on to do their bit in this war crisis. They have always come to the front in every emergency. They are now asked to make a fight for a democracy in which they are not included. Picketing, I realize since I have stood there with my flag, does bring to the notice of Congress and the public in general the demand made by women at this time. Out of either curosity or interest many investigate.

"Democracy is very near to our hearts; it has been for many years; like the men of the nation we are determined to fight for it—even if our fight means only taking a stand, only holding a flag."

The Breach in the Walls

By Earl Goodwin

WHEN the soldiers are relieved from duty in the siege of a town do the seneschals of the watch tower come down to a little postern gate and open a wicket and take in the leaguring ones that they may store their weapons within the walls of their enemy city?

Such thoughts as these ran through my head only a few nights past at something that took place in the House of Representatives office building.

You know there are always a pair of suffrage sentinels standing guard at the corner of New Jersey Avenue and B Street—opposite the front door of the House office building. They stand there with their banners day after day, day after day. I doubt if any member of Congress or any one of the thousands of men who pass those banners by could repeat properly the words upon the purple and gold cloth, but, of course, every one knows the women are emulating soldiers standing guard on a battle line; that they are besieging Congress and will not raise the siege until Congress capitulates and pays a ransom in the shape of universal suffrage.

Well, it was a night or two ago that I saw a skirt switching into a storeroom in the House office building, and as I passed the switching skirt I looked further and beheld an old employe of the building and the two suffrage sentinels. The employe had just opened the door with his key and the suffrage sentinels were in the act of leaning their banners against the wall, to be stored there for the night.

Which is to laugh! The soldiers stand about the walls all day, besieging Congress; and then when night comes down fall the besiegers' banners, and one of those within the walls opens the postern gate and takes into the bosom of the city the very ones who are besieging it, that their weapons and banners may be safe against the morrow.

But look out, Congress. It was by a trick of opening the walls, that let in the Trojan horse.

—From the Washington, D. C., Star, May 26.

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY AMENDMENT

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, namely:

"ARTICLE—SEC. 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"SEC. 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

THE AMENDMENT IN THE SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

Introduced

In the Senate, on April 4, 1917, by Senators Thompson, Owen, Jones and Shafroth.
In the House, on April 2, 1917 by Representatives Raker, Rankin, Mondell, Keating and Hayden.

Referred

In the Senate, to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.
In the House, to the Judiciary Committee.

Present Status

In the Senate
Before the Committee on Woman Suffrage.

In the House
Before the Judiciary Committee.

HISTORY OF THE AMENDMENT

Drafted
In its present form, by Susan B. Anthony in 1875.

First Introduced
January 10, 1878, by Hon. A. A. Sargent, in the Senate.

Reported from Committee

In the Senate
1878, Adverse majority.
1879, Favorable minority.
1882, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1884, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1886, Favorable majority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1892, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1896, Adverse majority.
1913, Favorable majority.
1914, Favorable majority.
1916, Favorable majority.

In the House
1883, Favorable majority.
1884, Adverse majority, favorable minority.
1886, Favorable minority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1894, Adverse majority.
1914, Without recommendation.
1916. Without recommendation.

Voted Upon

In the Senate
January 25, 1887. Yeas 16, nays 34. Absent 26 (of whom 4 were announced as for and 2 against).
March 19, 1914. Yeas 35, nays 34, failing by 11 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

In the House
January 12, 1915. Yeas 174, nays 204, failing by 78 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

The Suffragist

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Subscription, Domestic $1.00, *Foreign* $1.50. *Single copies 5 cents. Make checks, drafts and post-office orders payable to The Treasurer of the National Woman's Party*

Columbian Printing Company, Inc., Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter, Nov. 14, 1913, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879

The Picket and the President

PRESIDENT WILSON in a Memorial Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery called this country a country of liberty accomplished.

The President said that this government was planned as a refuge where all men's hopes of freedom could be realized.

"Now, having established such a government, having preserved such a government, having vindicated the power of such a government, we are saying to all mankind, 'We did not set this government up in order that we might have a selfish and separate liberty, for we are now ready to come to your assistance and fight out upon the fields of the world the cause of human liberty'."

He said further:

"It may be permitted to us to be glad that we have an opportunity to show the principles that we profess to be living, principles that live in our hearts, and to have a chance by the pouring out of our blood and treasure to vindicate the things which we have professed."

This is no time for phrase-making about democracy. Governments are shifting and falling in the cause of democracy. Oppressed peoples all over the world are forcing their claims for freedom—none with more justice than women. Real progress toward true self-government is only beginning. Yet the President of the United States can seriously declare this nation an established democracy, whose only part now is to spread its benefits abroad in the world. For women his words have a sting too sharp to bear.

President Wilson is not yet candid in this matter of democracy—and women must make him see it. If he loved liberty for men and women with the passion he claims he would give unequivocal support to the federal suffrage amendment. He could not make public speech after public speech in which he lauds our perfected democracy while day after day women stand at his gates with banners to force on his evasive attention the fact that twenty-four million women refuse to be excluded from self-government.

"The time has come for action," the President finished his speech, "and in the providence of God America will once more have an opportunity to show the world she was born to serve mankind."

The first opportunity for the United States—for the President—to serve mankind by advancing democracy is here and now in this session of Congress. It needs only a simple decision. It requires no blood or treasure. The country is for it. The only question about it is why the President delays.

Until President Wilson is educated to include women in his conception of a free nation, until he takes the reasonable, inevitable step to give them self-government, until he puts the strength of his administration behind the Susan B. Anthony amendment, he cannot be allowed to forget for a day women's rising impatience.

As long as he is still willing to let the truth about this unfree country slip between fine phrases about freedom, silent sentinels with purple, white and gold protests must stand guard for democracy.

War-Time Democracy

Speech before the House Judiciary Committee

By John Spargo

IS equal suffrage a fundamental requisite of democratic government? Is equal suffrage desirable in a democratic nation? Secondly, whatever the answer may be to that question, is this time of national peril and crisis, this time of war, when all our energies are strained to the uttermost, a propitious time for the enactment of the legislation asked for?

I am in the habit of assuming that bodies of forward-looking men nowadays agree upon the first question. I am in the habit of assuming that twentieth century men do not doubt that equal suffrage is a fundamental postulate of democracy, and is a desirable thing in a democratic nation. I think that statement needs no discussion.

At this time it has been truly said we are face to face with the gravest crisis in our national history, and we come to you urging that because of that crisis you should take the action we ask and recommend the enactment of the so-called Susan B. Anthony amendment.

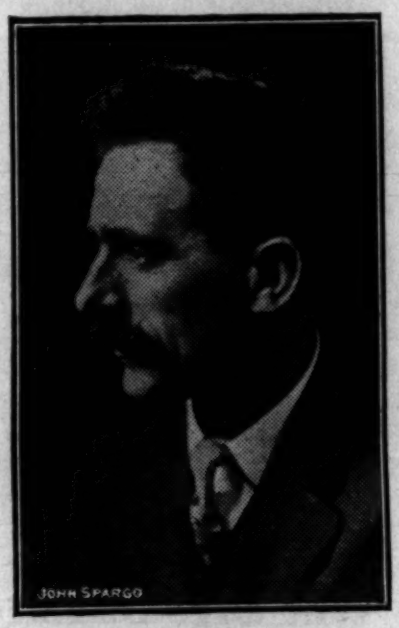
FIRST of all I submit to you gentlemen that the experiences of our great allies in this conflict are of some value. We have been acclaiming the missions of France and England with great eclat from one end of the land to the other because we believe that there is value in their coming to lay before us their experiences, their blunders; and that we may profit by their experiences in the great undertaking that is before us.

In each of the allied nations representative spokesmen have admitted openly and frankly that this war has made the enfranchisement of women desirable, and they have admitted the error of withholding the franchise from them so long. The statement was made by Lloyd-George, the British Premier, and Mr. Asquith, the former British Premier, and I have not the slightest hesitation in saying here that it is endorsed by Mr. Balfour and M. Viviani on behalf of the English and French Missions.

They have found that the virtues upon which a nation must rely in time of war are not male virtues. They are not the monopoly of our male population. They are the common property of our human kind. Courage, fortitude, daring and self-sacrifice have been exemplified by the women of England, of France, of Australia and of Canada quite as much as by the men. The women of Canada and of Australia have not flinched in giving their sons for the defence of democratic institutions.

ANOTHER great question which has entered into the war is inevitably here,—the problems arising from the passing of millions of women from their previous economic condition into active competition with men in the industrial field, and the assumption by women of entire industries.

England has seen the industrial army of men pass out to the trenches and women march from the homes and land into the factories. In the resultant problems it is not a question of whether men are inimical to the well-being of their women-kind. Men can not, do not and never will understand as well as women themselves understand their needs in industry. Men are by the nature of their experiences incompetent to say what women need when they are massed together by the thousands in great factories.



John Spargo

Here, too, we have the experience of other countries to guide us. They have had to call in voluntary associations of women to guide them upon these and other matters. This nation desires to get all the moral and mental efficiency of which this people is capable: and you cannot render a greater or more patriotic service than to recommend to this Congress at the present session that this nation show to all the nations on the earth that behind our President's noble declaration of war is the indisputable pledge of our own representative government to make democracy sure and certain in our own nation, where it does not require a vacated throne to do it.

I am one of those who believe that if that action is taken by the present Congress the word will surge throughout the world, will carry a thrill of inspiration to all people in the countries with which we are allied, and all forward-looking men in England and France will be prouder of our comradeship in arms; and all forward-looking people in the enemy countries, those who are bearing under very diffcult and perilous conditions the brunt of the struggle against the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs—they who are not really our enemies, but our friends, because they are waging the fight we say we have entered into the war to wage—each of these men will feel his arm steeled with new power and new force when they say to the Kaiser and to the King of Bulgaria and to the Sultan in the Ottoman Empire, "These nations against whom we are fighting are in this conflict to make democracy sure in the world. Witness this greatest of all nations that has come into the fray of its own free will and volition in this hour; as a war measure, as an evidence of its good faith, making the professions of its president incapable of doubt anywhere in the world—they have extended full political power to their women with their men." That is a very great practical service to render this nation.

AS to the question whether the woman who has not the franchise is as loyal and as patriotic as the man who has the franchise, nobody questions that the women are willing to do their best in this great crisis, but I submit to you gentlemen—not for the moment as representatives of parties in Congress, nor for the moment as legislators, but as men—that you ask yourselves this question, what would we do, how would we feel if we were without the franchise?

I have known what it means to live under conditions where men were not enfranchised. I was born under another flag. I came to this country because it seemed to me to be a country where the largest opportunity for democratic life and service was possible. In that native land of my own, at present allied with this country in this great struggle, as a little boy of ten working in the mines, I can very well remember the excitement of the miners because the greatest man, as we believed, of our day was coming to speak—the man with the mightiest voice in the British Empire, Mr. Gladstone, was coming to promise to working-men the vote. I remember the preparations the men made; how with all my little boyish might I went out and joined the working-men to help pull Mr. Gladstone through the streets.

The men of that time recognized how much the vote meant to them. They have found ever since that the vote has been the great lever by which they have established and improved their economic conditions. I know how men feel who live where they are a disfranchised class, and I think I can appreciate how these women feel.

I KNOW that if I lived in a land and worked in a land where I had not as a citizen the power to protect the means of earning my bread; if I had to work under conditions of industrial organization that I could not influence by my vote; if I had no other power than the desperate power the terrorist in Russia is permitted to have, or the pathetic power that the woman with the purple and gold banner takes to herself when she stands at the gate of the White House; if I had no other power than one of these, I do not think that I should feel that the state which denies me a

place and a power in making the state what it ought to be had any right to call upon me to sacrifice for the stability of the state.

And I ask in all seriousness, not for the moment whether as legislators you are prepared to agree with this statement, but whether in your hearts and consciousnesses you do not recognize the fact that there is something fundamentally unsound and repugnant to democratic principles, something that is bound to eat like a canker worm at the heart of our organizations in this struggle, in this assumption that you can go on demanding sacrifices from women without giving women a chance to lift their heads as high as their flag is lifted.

I HAVE not yet heard in all the three odd years since I have been interested in the question of federal woman suffrage a single reason urged against the enfranchisement of women that was not equally valid as an argument in favor of the disfranchisement of a large number of men who now have the franchise. And I have not failed to hear in this campaign every objection that I heard thirty odd years ago against extending the franchise to men.

They said that the working-men of England were not to be trusted with the power, that they were not wise enough; they say today that the women are not wise enough, that they cannot be entrusted with the power. They said then that if you gave this power to the working-men the sources of the government would be poisoned and corrupted; and they say now if you give this power to women the sources of the government will be poisoned and corrupted. They said then it needed centuries of tradition and experience to make a well-equipped citizenry worthy of the franchise; and they say now that it requires the long background of political training to make women worthy of the franchise.

And I say we are not sincere We are not candid with ourselves. Either we have dodged the question or we have taken unto ourselves the easy evasions that come to men in a busy world that is full of perplexing questions.

If we believe that there should be an intelligence test then we should come out and demand that the franchise be based on an intelligence test. There is some intelligence in the requirement that there be an intelligence test; there is no intelligence in a sex test or a sex requirement.

We are quite aware that if you take the action we now ask you to take that it will not give a vote to a single woman for a considerable time to come, not, we hope, during the pendency of the present war, because we hope that the war will be over before that action will become operative and fruitful. But when we say we also recognize, and you will recognize it from your political wisdom, that the moment the word goes out from the Congress of the United States that woman is to be enfranchised, then everywhere woman assumes, by reason of that action, a new status, a new importance and a new dignity; and that new dignity and new importance, due to her equality as a potential factor, will give to woman a new power, a new enthusiasm and a new willingness to sacrifice for and to serve the state of which she then becomes a maker and an upholder in the best sense of the word.

YOU ask me as to the attitude of Premier Lloyd-George, whom I have known personally for a great many years. Mr. Lloyd-George was, and I think still is, a democrat. He believed instinctively in the principal of equal suffrage, but when he arrived at the critical time of the nation's history, he determined, presumably, that it must be put aside in the time of national emergency.

But the English have found that woman has entered into an entirely new relation to the state. They have found that their laws governing certain industries were laws made to suit the conditions which prevalied before the war when men did the work. Mr. Lloyd-George has said that they have reached the conclusion that woman in this war has demonstrated that the objection heretofore against woman suffrage is undemocratic and not practical, that women have met all that was imposed upon them, and that they have revealed the fact that the legislation for the regulation of industrial processes, for example, has been man-conceived and man-made, and that woman's experience is equally necessary.

They have discovered through the failure of their economic regulations in the large things the need of a general regard for woman's interests through industry in general.. They have found out in this large dramatic way that woman must be represented in government.

President Wilson Will Urge Suffrage in Next Congress

By Gilson Gardner

Washington Correspondent of the Scripps Papers

PRESIDENT WILSON has convinced advocates of woman suffrage that he is friendly toward the passage of the federal amendment. He would like to see it passed at this Congress, but will not initiate such a movement. He will, however, push it next session.

This is the impression gathered by the committee which waited on Wilson, representing the Progressive Party conference which recently met in St. Louis, and representing, also, the Prohibition, Socialist and Woman's Parties. The committee numbered about a dozen and the President talked informally and quite frankly half an hour.

The most important change in President Wilson's attitude is his abandonment of the state-by-state plan. While admitting that his predilections are still toward the state method, he assurred his visitors he is now convinced many things must move faster as a result of the world war than they would in normal times.

With the great drafts made on women for war service it is thought political recognition of women as voters is the least any government can give.

With this country committed to war for world democracy, the President admits there is point in the claim by women that our own franchise system be democratized. In this the United States is only following in the wake of Great Britain and probably even Russia.

The present session of Congress, says the President, is already committed to the exclusive consideration of a war program.

At the beginning of the session the President held conferences with Congressional leaders and agreement was reached that the time should be devoted to passage of a few measures like the selective service bill, spy bill, liberty loan bond issue, taxation program, army bill, sundry civil bill and the river and harbor bill.

General legislation has been put to one side. Even prohibition has found place only incidental to the conservation of food. When this program is cleaned up the President expects Congress to adjourn.

As soon as the weather is cool he expects to call Congress back for a second session, and at that time woman suffrage, he gives assurance, will be included in the administration program.

With administration support the Susan B. Anthony amendment can easily be passed.

A poll shows two-thirds of the Republican members of the House and Senate are willing to vote for the amendment. The Democrats show only about a third, the rest holding off until they get word from the President. A few members are avowedly against suffrage.

Most of the Democratic members, particularly in the House, say frankly they are waiting for the President to say what he wants.

With the President's O. K. such an amendment would receive the necessary two-thirds vote in House and Senate and would automatically go to the states for ratification.

Party Advances in the South and West

Federal Suffrage Activity in the Southern States

CONCENTRATION on the South that the growing interest of the women in the Southern states may be focussed on the federal amendment is bringing amazing results. Mississippi is anxious to form a state branch of the Woman's Party. Splendid progress is being made in South Carolina and Alabama. From Florida the Woman's Party sends to the national lobby a young woman, Miss Helen Hunt, who is bringing home to Southern representatives that Southern women as well as Northern are making sacrifices to promote their own enfranchisement as a war measure.

THE large and attractive headquarters of the Woman's Party at the Carrol Hotel at Vicksburg have become a headquarters for the forward-looking women of the city. From Vicksburg the state conference which will be held at the end of the month is being organized. The Governor of Mississippi will probably be a speaker at the conference, which he will attend with his staff, reports Mrs. Thompson. A tea will follow the conference to give both suffragists and non-suffragists a chance to meet visitors from other parts of the state.

Representative Pat Harrison is likely to hear from his own constitutents as to his past suffrage record and his attempt to block the creation of a suffrage committee in the House. In explaining his attitude to Mississippi women Mrs. Thompson has pointed out that the creation of the suffrage committee was an unimportant detail of amendment legislation and that Representative Harrison had opposed the enfranchisement of women since his advent to the White House. "He is now trying to call attention to the suffrage picket as the cause of his adverse vote on the creation of a committee, for the purpose of diverting the attention of suffragists from his opposition to the suffrage measure itself." Mrs. Thompson made the trip to Gulfport to explain this point to the women of Harrison's home town, who will as soon as possible send a deputation to him.

THE Alabama organization, making definite plans for the state, is not neglecting immediate opportunities. Miss Nell Freeman, a new member of the Woman's Party from Alabama, as a delegate from the Stenographer's Union, secured the passage of the following war-resolution favoring suffrage from the Alabama State Federation of Labor.

Resolution adopted by Alabama State Federation of Labor, in convention, Anniston, Ala., May 23, 1917.

Whereas, Equal suffrage between the sexes is one of the inherent principles of democracy, and one for which all organized labor stands; and

Whereas, We believe that before America can successfully prosecute a fight for world democracy, she must first establish a democracy within her own boundaries, by enfranchising her women; and

Whereas, When women assume the burden of war, they must be given adequate means of protection; and

Whereas, We believe that it is dangerous to the conservation of our resources, the safety of labor, and the welfare of the American people to leave our women unenfranchised during the period of the war; and

Whereas, Suffrage by the states is slow and uncertain;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, That we do call upon the Congress of the United States to submit to the several states for ratification at the earliest possible time, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, enfranchising the American women.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each of Alabama's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

SOUTH CAROLINA Congressmen are being reminded that there is a Woman's Party branch in their home state. Demands for the passage of the amendment as a war measure were sent to Congress last week from the Greenville Equal Suffrage League, of which Mrs. W. P. Vaughn, a member of the Woman's Party, is president. She writes: "I am thrilled to find a rapidly growing sentiment in South Carolina for the federal amendment."

Mrs. Charles Winters Brannan of New York, a member of the National Executive Committee of the Woman's Party, held conferences with the state committee of the Woman's Party in Charleston and Greenville last week, speaking in Greenville. Mrs. Brannan echoes Mrs. Vaughn in her enthusiasm over the support Southern women are bringing to federal suffrage.

MRS. CLARA SNELL WOLFE spoke at a large gathering in Gonzales, Texas, last week, bringing about the organization of that congressional district. Miss Ora Wood was elected chairman of the district, with a full committee to help in precinct organization to be appointed by her. Mrs. Wolfe is speaking in the larger towns of Texas, pointing out the importance of suffrage as a war measure and the large part Southern women can play in helping win this legislation for the women of the nation.

IN Maryland Miss Lucy Branham is holding organization meetings in many parts of the state to interest women in the coming state conference of the Woman's Party to be held at the Baltimore headquarters. Miss Mabel Vernon of Washington, D. C., will be one of the speakers. The main object of the meeting will be the discussion of the amalgamation of the Just Government and Woman's Party organizations, the former having already affiliated with the Party.

Mrs. Helena Hill Weed of Washington interested a new and important group in the political demand of women for the federal amendment when, with Mrs. Donald Hooker, she was the guest of the Chestertown Woman's Club which was entertaining the Elkton and Cambridge Woman's organizations at a luncheon in Chestertown on the Eastern Shore, with one hundred and fifty women present. Mrs. Wilbur Hubbard presided at the luncheon and warm interest in the new demand of women was aroused.

Oregon and Colorado Moves

ACCOMPANIED by Miss Emma Wold, secretary of the Oregon Woman's Party, Miss Clara Wold, a young newspaper woman, and Miss Sally Hunt, who has worked with Christabel Pankhurst in London and Paris, the two organizers of the Woman's Party, Miss Margaret Whittemore and Miss Margery Ross, touring the suffrage states in their Ford, arrived in Salem, where Mrs. J. G. Richardson, chairman of the second Oregon district had arranged an enthusiastic reception and meeting. Following a conference for the purpose of planning district work, the party left for Eugene, the State University city. Mrs. P. H. Campbell, wife of the President of the State University, and Miss Elizabeth Fox, dean of women, headed the committee that organized the Eugene meetings. Mrs. Campbell has become a member of the permanent state committee which is pushing for suffrage as a war measure.

Professor P. H. Campbell, who was recently in Washington for a conference of college presidents, said in regard to the new agitation for federal suffrage, "You have ninety chances now to pass the suffrage amendment through Congress where you had one before the war. I believe the amendment is about to be added to the Constitution."

TYPICAL of the small tidal wave of letters and telegrams pouring in upon Chairman Webb of the Judiciary Committee of the House and other members of Congress from Party adherents is the appeal that is reaching the House Committee from Colorado:

"The new war tax bill will strike hard at women housekeepers and affect salaried women as they have never been affected before. Is it right to impose this and other war burdens on women and still deny them the elementary right of representation? Will you not use your great influence to establish the principle of democracy on a sound basis at home, and at the same time release to other service for the nation the large number of women who are obliged to devote their time and energy to securing the passage of the Susan B. Anthony amendment?" Mrs. Bertha M. Fowler, state chairman of Colorado, says that 1,500 women have sent the above letter from her state, and the City Club Federations are being asked to join in the nation-wide appeal to Congress for the liberation of women.

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Rhode Island Joins National Woman's Party

WITH over one hundred men and women present a state conference of the National Woman's Party was last week held in Providence, Rhode Island, with an executive committee elected for the state to bring pressure on Congress. The spirit that has pushed Rhode Island to her position as presidential suffrage pioneer in the East was evident at the conference, the work of organizing the state for federal action being taken up with intelligence and enthusiasm. Miss Mildred Gilbert, national organizer of the Woman's Party, who had been in Rhode Island some weeks speaking in Providence, Newport, Tiverton and other centers on the work of the Woman's Party, had opened headquarters in Providence at the Narragansett Hotel. She was assisted in her work by Miss Katherine Morey of Boston.

A luncheon preceded the conference proper at which Miss Grace M. Coyne of Tiverton acted as toastmistress. The speakers were Miss Lucy Burns of New York, Mrs. Abby Scott Baker of Washington, D. C., Miss Katherine Morey of Boston, Miss Mildred Gilbert of California and Mr. Stephen D. Paddock of Rhode Island. A telegram was read from Governor Beeckman regretting that he could not be present to speak in favor of the federal suffrage amendment, which he had urged the five representatives of Rhode Island to support.

Mr. Paddock as a Providence attorney spoke of the federal struggle for suffrage in relation to his state, touching on the larger aspect suffrage for women is assuming at this time of crisis. "It is unjust that one great American army shall have a voice at this difficult time, while the other great army, the women of the nation, have no voice in their own government."

Angles of the federal suffrage situation were dealt with by the other speakers: Miss Morey spoke of the growing political power of women, augmented now by Rhode Island, and described the last campaign of the Woman's Party in the West; Miss Burns summed up the suffrage progress of the last four years which had focussed the attention of millions of women on their own enfranchisement; Mrs. Baker described the last words of President Wilson on suffrage which she herself had heard at the White House two weeks ago when he declared he was reconsidering his suffrage position and had asked the formation of a suffrage committee in the House.

"If Rhode Island women would join their strength to that of the other enfranchised women of the seventeen states," she said, "and not permit it to be divided into thirty-six channels by the state by state work, they would find every blow they struck for suffrage is magnified by eighteen.

"We have come in the first flush of your splendid victory to beg you to help us, because without the help of women who have political power we are nationally helpless. We cannot wait; every day and hour is important. The iron is hot; we entreat you to strike now for the national freedom of women."

FOLLOWING the luncheon addresses the following officers were elected unanimously: state chairman, Mrs. Richard Jackson Barker of Tiverton; vice-chairmen, Mrs. Marsden Perry, Miss Mildred Glines, Miss Louisa Sturtevant of Newport, Miss Grace M. Coyne of Tiverton, Miss Ingeborg Kinstedt of Providence and Mrs. F. C. Biesel of Newport; secretary, Miss Gladys Newman; treasurer, Mrs. Nelson Burlingham. A constitution for the state branch was adopted and a plan for district work discussed by this committee.

Mrs. Barker, the newly eleced state chairman, is a woman of splendid executive ability. Long a suffragist, during a recent visit in Washington she became interested in the more direct federal work. For twenty-one years a member of the Tiverton school board, Mrs. Barker is connected with the Woman's College of Brown University, has served as national vice-president general of the D. A. R. and is a Colonial Dame. She is a member of the board of visitors of the State College of Rhode Island. In speaking of the new work she is planning as state chairman she said: "I urge the women of this state now to join their efforts with voting women of the West and push for the federal amendment, rather than play local state politics or initiate moves for full suffrage here. We have all the suffrage Rhode Island can give. Let us all work together for the federal amendment at this critical time."

Mrs. Marsden Perry, first vice-chairman, has long been a member of the National Woman's Party; and her activity on the state board will mean impetus for the Rhode Island work.

Miss Mildred Glines was one of the three or four women who were material factors in Rhode Island's splendid presidential suffrage victory. A young woman of ability and charm, she helped make the conference luncheon the success it was. Miss Glines is the daughter of Major Charles T. Glines, and a resident of Providence.

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Comments of the Press

Suffrage After Food Legislation

NEARER and nearer draws the day for the federal amendment granting suffrage to women. Bill after bill is presented and passed, granting money, men, navies, and food provision. Women are most patient and reasonable in waiting until the vital material help is given the allies; but let no one think, like the peevish representative from Mississippi—who will refuse to report out any suffrage legislation until the "silent sentinels" are removed—that women are going to urge their men to the front, make hospital dressings, conserve the food supply, help sell the bonds—as Mr. McAdoo has asked Mrs. Frank Vanderlip to do—pay their share of the taxes, replace men in the business world, and do the thousand other unnamed tasks which will arise, and then stand quietly and silently around while men make all the decisions. Surely, Americans have too keen a sense of humor, even if they didn't have too decent a sense of justice, to be content with so anomalous a situation on the eve of entering a war for "human rights." Human rights, one bright woman often reminds us, are not masculine. Congress, if only to save its face, should pass a federal amendment granting suffrage at this session. "Taxation without representation" stirred up a considerable disturbance more than a century ago, and the feeling on the subject has not grown less insistent in the intervening time. Men themselves will be expected to suggest the legislation, and women look for no less than a spontaneous approval, beginning with the President, for an act of simple fair play to half the nation. We should not march to war divided against ourselves and expect a victory for right. Suffrage next after food legislation!—*Richmond, Va., Evening Journal, May* 22.

The United States Preaches

GREAT BRITAIN is practicing democracy as well as preaching it. The war is not without an item or two on the credit side of the bloody ledger. For it is woman's unmistakable service in the greatest crisis that has ever confronted the British people which has converted many anti-suffragists. If this is to be a war for democracy, we can hear them all saying, let it begin here.—*New York Evening Post, May* 23.

A Warning

ENGLISH womanhood is marching through the munitions factory to the polling place.—*Boston Herald.* Not until women showed their ability to make implements of war were they recognized as potential citizens! Strange things are being written into the history of the world.—*Miami Metropolis, April* 23.

A Plea for Democracy

IT is not the purpose of the pickets to "nag" Mr. Wilson, or any one else. It is precisely their purpose to keep the nation informed that at the gates of the Capitol representative women from all over the country are demanding recognition in our so-called "democracy." This may be a part of national service. The nation requires men to perform the patriotic duties of watching and waiting, as well as fighting and ploughing. Surely a few women out of our millions may be detailed to guard for us.

Can the United States be successful in establishing "a world democracy" when one-half of its own inhabitants are denied participation in the laws by which they are governed, and do we not need to recognize our concept of "democratic institutions" if we would "sustain the life of the nation" in this crisis? Upon women in war-times much of the burden of government and maintenance falls. Would not a responsive Government anticipate the need of their services by equipping them with political equality and liberty? Can we depend upon the "justness of a grateful nation" to see clearly that which it has heretofore been reluctant to recognize if it cannot now profit by the experience of England in this matter, as well as in the matter of conscription? Is there anything "militant" in proclaiming our demand? If this is indeed a war for the maintenance of democracy, let the first war measure be emancipation of all so-called "free-born" Americans, regardless of sex.—*Cornelia Bruere Rose, New York Post, May* 15.

An Astute Query

THE House of Representatives has taken under advisement the need of creating a suffrage committee. Can it be that there are still any members in the House who have not committee appointments?—*St. Paul Pioneer Press, May,* 21.

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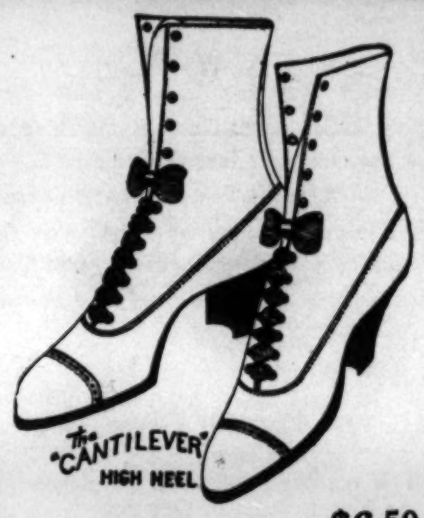

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